Cheyanne T.

**Psychologist**

*Prairie du Chien High School*

Becoming a Psychologist

Ever since I was a child I’ve always been interested in the human mind. There is something so enticing about knowing why people do what we do. When I was in middle school I spent most of my study halls researching different experiments, and studies. My freshman year I practically begged to be put into AP Psychology, but no matter how much I did they wouldn’t even put me into the introductory course. This didn’t slow me down though; I continued to use my free time to research more and more. By sophomore year once I took my Intro to Psychology class. I had already known all there was to know about every study we discussed. I had at least learned first hand different psychology methods and some basic explanations for human behavior, but I wasn’t satisfied.

Every new study I discover opens a new door for more and more research. There are so many different disorders and illnesses that have never been explained, and finding out what causes them could help many people. That’s what I want to dedicate my education to, I want to discover new treatment methods that will help people. New medications to help people struggling with mental illnesses and disorders. There may never be a cure for many mental disorders, but that’s no reason to stop trying to help people live a happy life. So many people struggle with mental disorders, and many people have tried dozens of things that haven’t worked to the point where they have lost hope.

I’ve always been told that if I go to college I need to go into a high-paying career. I was never that interested in making a lot of money since I believed it entailed doing something I wasn’t interested in. Knowing that a career in psychology almost guarantees a high salary almost makes me sad, because I don’t feel happy profiting off of people’s suffering. Many people don’t seek treatment because of how incredibly expensive it is. That’s even without medication, many people with untreated mental illnesses are likely to struggle with work and many other things. Having the help they need being out of reach is cruel. That’s why my dream is to provide help to people who may not have the money to get the help they need.

I would love to open a nonprofit psychiatric treatment center that would be able to help anyone who needed it. There I would also be able to continue my research and hopefully develop new and successful treatment plans for my patients who have not had success with other methods. I would also like to be able to provide care for people whose family cannot take care of them anymore. In many places people with mental illnesses are sent to centers and treated like monsters, and I would want to guarantee them the best and happiest life possible.

Younger me would be proud of the progress I’ve made, but she would be astonished if I could make my dream come true. It seems impossible, but I will do everything I can to reach my goal and help as many people as I can.